

## MACAULAY'S USE OF LITERATURE

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tiler,<sup>1</sup> and the similar chorus which expressed the scorn of the nation for the noblemen and statesmen who turned Catholic to please the King.<sup>2</sup> In similar fashion he traces the revulsion of feeling which took place after the Revolution—the growing unpopularity of William,<sup>3</sup> the distress caused by war and bad harvests,<sup>4</sup> and the attempts of the enemies of the government to foment the general discontent.

Trade was not prosperous ; and many industrious men were out of work. Accordingly songs addressed to the distressed classes were composed by the malcontent street poets. Numerous copies of a ballad exhorting the weavers to rise against the government were discovered in the house of the Quaker who had printed James's Declaration. Every art was used for the purpose of exciting discontent in a much more formidable body of men, the sailors ; and unhappily the vices of the naval administration furnished the enemies of the State with but too good a choice of inflammatory topics. Some seamen deserted ; some mutinied ; then came executions ; and then came more ballads and broadsides representing those executions as barbarous murders.<sup>5</sup>

Ballads are good evidence as to popular feeling about some particular social or economic grievance. In his third chapter Macaulay uses the Pepysian collection with

great effect to prove the unpopularity of the  
hearth tax—  
chimney money, as it was called.<sup>6</sup> Often no  
other evidence  
is so convincing. Speaking of the fact that in  
the time of  
Charles II a shilling a day was regarded as  
fair wages of

<sup>1</sup>II, 964 (viii) ; 1012 (viii). \*II, 848 (vii).

<sup>3</sup>III, 1371 (xi). \*V, 2250 (xix).

<sup>5</sup>V, 2372 (xx). The ballad Macaulay quotes in n. 4 is  
printed in Naval

Songs and Ballads, ed. C. H. Firth (1908), pp. 1403.

<sup>6</sup>1, 277-8 (in).